

In the Claims:

Rule 126.1 Please add new claims 40-45 as follows.

R 9/1/99 Rule 27.40. (New) A system, comprising:
an object having at least one symbol thereon;
an emitter within said object for actively emitting a signal including encoded information uniquely representative of said at least one symbol;
a surface for supporting said object; and
a processor, including means for receiving said signal from said emitter, said processor capable of identifying said symbol from said signal.

R 9/1/99 28. 41. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said processor is further capable of identifying a position of said object on said surface.

29. 42. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said symbol is visually recognizable.

30. 43. (New) A system as in claim 27, wherein said symbol is recognizable by touch.

31. 44. (New) An apparatus for entering data into a computer, the data being entered via the placement of one or more objects on the apparatus, each object of the one or more objects having at least one unique item of data associated therewith, comprising:
a substantially flat, planar surface for receiving the placement of the one or more objects;

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one or more detectors capable of detecting the at least one unique item of data associated with the one or more objects placed on the surface;

a communication link capable of communicating the detected data from the apparatus to the computer, the computer capable of providing feedback relating to the data detected from the one or more objects placed on the surface.

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45. (New) An apparatus for entering data into a computer, the data being entered via the placement of one or more objects on the apparatus, each object of the one or more objects having at least one unique item of data associated therewith, comprising:

a surface for receiving the placement of the one or more objects;

one or more detectors beneath said surface capable of detecting the at least one unique item of data associated with the one or more objects placed on the surface;

a communication link capable of communicating the detected data from the apparatus to the computer, the computer capable of providing feedback relating to the data detected from the one or more objects placed on the surface.
